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comments reported.

It is not known how widespread these opinions are in

Czech circles.

1. Leaders in Czechoslovakia believe that war between the USSR and the Western Allies is inevitable within the next ten years. Based upon this assumption, Czechoslovakia is gearing her economy for a war effort. Long range industrial development projects have been abandoned (sic), e.g., the HUKO project aimed at the development of the iron and steel industry in Slovakia, and the entire present drive is to develop those industries and facilities which are required to support a military effort in the relatively near future. The present effort is being undertaken under the close supervision of Soviet technicians. Already the economy of Czechoslovakia is more closely coordinated with that of the USSR than was the Czech economy with that of Hitler Germany during the period of the German Protectorate.
2. Despite her aggressive policy of recent years, the USSR basically does not desire a war. The USSR feels that she can indefinitely support the present policy of harassing the United States on the latter's vital periphery in Asia, in Korea, Indo-China, Malaya, Tibet, and by encouraging feeling against the U.S. and internal dissension among the main partners in NATO and the European Defense Community - Great Britain, France, and Germany. However, the USSR does not believe that the United States will be able to build up NATO without great concessions to West Germany with respect to the ultimate political objectives of the alliance. Germany will insist that the "redemption" of East Germany is a necessity and with - or without - United States assent will embark upon a program of provocation which will result in a "war situation" over the creation of a united Germany, including the eastern territory lost to Poland. West Germany will have reached a dangerous bargaining position when she has created a force of 20 modern divisions. This force

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may well be ready by 1954, and a war situation could be envisaged any time after that date. The United States, faced with the prospect of acceding to German wishes or seeing the total collapse of NATO, will back the German drive and force England and France to do likewise. The USSR and the other satellites will support the DDR and Poland, and World War III will begin.

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